

Contents

Preface vii

One Philosophy and the Bible 3

What Is Philosophy? Ideas of God in the Bible. Biblical Ethics and Law. The Origin of Law. Prophetic Ethics. Prophetic Individualism. The Day of Doom. From Wisdom to Philosophy.

Two The Judeo-Greek Temper 35

The Gentle Cynic. The Search for Satisfaction. The Tough-Minded Skeptic. The Dramatic Vehicle. Job's Challenge. Some Minor Examples of Greek Influence. Philo of Alexandria. Proving the Existence of God. The Theory of Intermediation. Ethical Ideas in Philo.

Three The World of Rabbinic Thought 63

Logic and Rabbinic Interpretation. Rabbinic Ideas of God. Divine Service. The Law and the Prophets. Ethical Teachings of the Rabbis. Philanthropy. The Doctrine of a Future Life.

Four From Gnosticism to Kabbala 89

Jewish Gnostics. Mysticism of the Throne. The Mystery of Creation. Beginnings of the Kabbala. The Pious of Germany. Mystical Speculation in Provence and Spain. Abraham ben Samuel Abulafia. Joseph ben Abraham Gikatilia. The Book of Splendor. The Ideas of the Book of Splendor. Moses Cordovero, Systematizer.

Five Rationalism in the Judeo-Arabic Era 122

Anan ben David. Benjamin of Nahawend. Daniel al-Kumisi. Rabbanite Rationalism. Isaac Israeli. Saadia ben Joseph. The Book of Beliefs and Opinions. Proofs of Creation. The Unity of God. Divine Justice.

CONTENTS

Six Jewish Philosophy in Spain 154

Solomon ibn Gabirol. Man as the Microcosm. Ethical Ideas of Ibn Gabirol. Bahya ibn Pakuda. The Inward Duties. The Divine Attributes. The Pious Life. Spiritual Accounting. Lesser Lights of Spanish-Jewish Philosophy: Pseudo-Bahya. Abraham bar Hiyya. Joseph ibn Zaddik. Abraham ibn Daud.

Seven Peaks of Spanish-Jewish Philosophy 193

The Conversion of the Khazars. Jehudah ben Samuel Halevi. Halevi's Nationalism. The Nature of God. Freedom, Divine and Human. Moses Maimonides. The Guide for the Perplexed. Maimonides on God. The Way of Negation. Createdness. Prophecy.

Eight Five Centuries of Criticism and Defense 230

Levi ben Gerson (Gersonides). Hasdai ben Abraham Crescas. Creedal Formulas. Joseph Albo. The Dogmas of Judaism. Critical Minds of the Renaissance. Leon da Modena. Benedict Spinoza.

Nine Enlightened Ideas and Jewish Emancipation 261

Jewish Emancipation. Moses Mendelssohn. The Trend toward Reform. Geiger's Philosophy of Judaism. Lesser Lights of Reform Jewish Philosophy. The Traditional Response to Reform. Jewish Nationalism.

Ten Philosophies of Judaism in a Secular Age 286

The Priority of Life to Thought. Between Philosophy and Religion. Realization through Dialogue. I and Thou. Community and Collectivity. Religion as a Group Affair. Judaism as a Civilization. Conclusion.

For Further Reading 314

Notes 318

Index 320